



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

County Counsel
Director of Health Services

At its meeting held June 14, 2005, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

“On June 6, 2005, the United States Supreme Court made a decision in Gonzales v. Raich authorizing the Federal government to prosecute the use of marijuana for medical purposes in states that have enacted laws permitting such use. California enacted Proposition 215 in 1996, allowing residents to obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes with the consent of a physician; and SB 420 in 2003, instructing the State Department of Health Services to establish a Medical Marijuana Program that issues identification cards to qualified patients. Despite the existence of these state laws, the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services delayed the implementation of a County medical marijuana identification card program until the United States Supreme Court ruled on the Gonzales v. Raich case.

“The recent decision by the United States Supreme Court has far-reaching implications for the legal protections provided to users of marijuana for medical purposes, and for the operation of medical cannabis dispensaries in the County.”

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Director of Health Services, the Sheriff and County Counsel were requested to report back to the Board within two weeks on the implications of the United States Supreme Court's decision in the case entitled, Gonzales v. Raich, which authorizes the Federal government to prosecute the use of marijuana for medical purposes in states that have enacted laws permitting such use, and how it affects the implementation of Proposition 215 within Los Angeles County.

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